

governments shall send a copy of the request to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development at the time the request is made.

**(d) Consideration of requests**

In considering a request, the Secretary shall weigh the extent to which the proposed change is likely to further job creation, community development, or economic revitalization within the enterprise zone against the effect the change is likely to have on the underlying purposes of applicable statutes in the geographic area that would be affected by the change. The Secretary shall approve the request whenever the Secretary finds, in the discretion of the Secretary, that the public interest that the proposed change would serve in furthering such job creation, community development or economic revitalization outweighs the public interest that continuation of the rule unchanged would serve in furthering such underlying purposes. The Secretary shall not approve any request to waive or modify a rule if that waiver or modification would—

- (1) directly violate a statutory requirement; or
- (2) be likely to present a significant risk to the public health, including environmental health or safety.

**(e) Notice of disapproval**

If a request is disapproved, the Secretary shall inform the requesting governments in writing of the reasons therefor and shall, to the maximum extent possible, work with such governments to develop an alternative, consistent with the standards contained in subsection (d) of this section.

**(f) Period for determination**

The Secretary shall discharge the responsibilities of the Secretary under this section in an expeditious manner, and shall make a determination on requests not later than 90 days after their receipt.

**(g) Applicable procedures**

A waiver or modification of a rule under subsection (a) of this section shall not be considered to be a rule, rulemaking, or regulation under chapter 5 of title 5. To facilitate reaching a decision on any requested waiver or modification, the Secretary may seek the views of interested parties and, if the views are to be sought, determine how they should be obtained and to what extent, if any, they should be taken into account in considering the request. The Secretary shall publish a notice in the Federal Register stating any waiver or modification of a rule under this section.

**(h) Effect of subsequent amendment of rules**

In the event that the Secretary proposes to amend a rule for which a waiver or modification under this section is in effect, the Secretary shall not change the waiver or modification to impose additional requirements unless the Secretary determines, consistent with standards contained in subsection (d) of this section, that such action is necessary.

**(i) Expiration of waivers and modifications**

No waiver or modification of a rule under this section shall remain in effect for a longer period

than the period for which the enterprise zone designation remains in effect for the area in which the waiver or modification applies.

**(j) Definitions**

For purposes of this section:

**(1) Rule**

The term “rule” means—

- (A) any rule as defined in section 551(4) of title 5; or
- (B) any rulemaking conducted on the record after opportunity for an agency hearing pursuant to sections 556 and 557 of title 5.

**(2) Secretary**

The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development or, with respect to any rule issued under title V of the Housing Act of 1949 [42 U.S.C. 1471 et seq.], the Secretary of Agriculture.

(Pub. L. 100-242, title VII, § 704, Feb. 5, 1988, 101 Stat. 1962.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Housing Act of 1949, referred to in subsecs. (a) and (j)(2), is act July 15, 1949, ch. 338, 63 Stat. 413, as amended. Title V of the Housing Act of 1949 is classified generally to subchapter III (§1471 et seq.) of chapter 8A of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1441 of this title and Tables.

**§ 11505. Coordination with CDBG and UDAG programs**

It is the policy of the Congress that amounts provided under the community development block grant and urban development action grant programs under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 [42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.] shall not be reduced in any fiscal year in which the provisions of this chapter are in effect.

(Pub. L. 100-242, title VII, § 706, Feb. 5, 1988, 101 Stat. 1964.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, referred to in text, is Pub. L. 93-383, Aug. 22, 1974, 88 Stat. 633, as amended. Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 is classified principally to chapter 69 (§5301 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 5301 of this title and Tables.

**CHAPTER 121—INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION REMEDIES**

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## § 11601. Findings and declarations

### (a) Findings

The Congress makes the following findings:

- (1) The international abduction or wrongful retention of children is harmful to their well-being.
- (2) Persons should not be permitted to obtain custody of children by virtue of their wrongful removal or retention.
- (3) International abductions and retentions of children are increasing, and only concerted cooperation pursuant to an international agreement can effectively combat this problem.
- (4) The Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, done at The Hague on October 25, 1980, establishes legal rights and procedures for the prompt return of children who have been wrongfully removed or retained, as well as for securing the exercise of visitation rights. Children who are wrongfully removed or retained within the meaning of the Convention are to be promptly returned unless one of the narrow exceptions set forth in the Convention applies. The Convention provides a sound treaty framework to help resolve the problem of international abduction and retention of children and will deter such wrongful removals and retentions.

### (b) Declarations

The Congress makes the following declarations:

- (1) It is the purpose of this chapter to establish procedures for the implementation of the Convention in the United States.
- (2) The provisions of this chapter are in addition to and not in lieu of the provisions of the Convention.
- (3) In enacting this chapter the Congress recognizes—
  - (A) the international character of the Convention; and

(B) the need for uniform international interpretation of the Convention.

(4) The Convention and this chapter empower courts in the United States to determine only rights under the Convention and not the merits of any underlying child custody claims.

(Pub. L. 100-300, §2, Apr. 29, 1988, 102 Stat. 437.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsec. (b), was in the original "this Act" meaning Pub. L. 100-300, Apr. 29, 1988, 102 Stat. 437, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note below and Tables.

#### SHORT TITLE

Section 1 of Pub. L. 100-300 provided that: "This Act [enacting this chapter and amending section 663 of this title] may be cited as the 'International Child Abduction Remedies Act'."

#### REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE HAGUE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION

Pub. L. 105-277, div. G, title XXVIII, §2803, Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681-846, as amended by Pub. L. 106-113, div. B, §1000(a)(7) [div. A, title II, §202], Nov. 29, 1999, 113 Stat. 1536, 1501A-420, provided that:

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 21, 1998] and every 12 months thereafter during the period ending September 30, 2001, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees on the compliance with the provisions of the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, done at The Hague on October 25, 1980, by the signatory countries of the Convention. Each such report shall include the following information:

"(1) The number of applications for the return of children submitted by applicants in the United States to the Central Authority for the United States that remain unresolved more than 18 months after the date of filing.

"(2) A list of the countries to which children in unresolved applications described in paragraph (1) are alleged to have been abducted, are being wrongfully retained in violation of United States court orders, or which have failed to comply with any of their obligations under such convention with respect to applications for the return of children, access to children, or both, submitted by applicants in the United States.

"(3) A list of the countries that have demonstrated a pattern of noncompliance with the obligations of the Convention with respect to applications for the return of children, access to children, or both, submitted by applicants in the United States to the Central Authority for the United States.

"(4) Detailed information on each unresolved case described in paragraph (1) and on actions taken by the Department of State to resolve each such case, including the specific actions taken by the United States chief of mission in the country to which the child is alleged to have been abducted.

"(5) Information on efforts by the Department of State to encourage other countries to become signatories of the Convention.

"(6) A list of the countries that are parties to the Convention in which, during the reporting period, parents who have been left-behind in the United States have not been able to secure prompt enforcement of a final return or access order under a Hague proceeding, of a United States custody, access, or visitation order, or of an access or visitation order by authorities in the country concerned, due to the absence of a prompt and effective method for enforcement of civil court orders, the absence of a doctrine of comity, or other factors.